

MR. KING'S SPEECH,

AT EGHAM;

WITH

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THOMAS PAINE'S LETTER

TO HIM ON IT,

AND

MR. KING'S REPLY,

AS THEY ALL APPEARED IN THE

THE MORNING HERALD:

The EGHAM SPEECH on DECEMBER 12, 1792,

AND

PAINE'S LETTER, with the ANSWER,

JANUARY 22, 1793.

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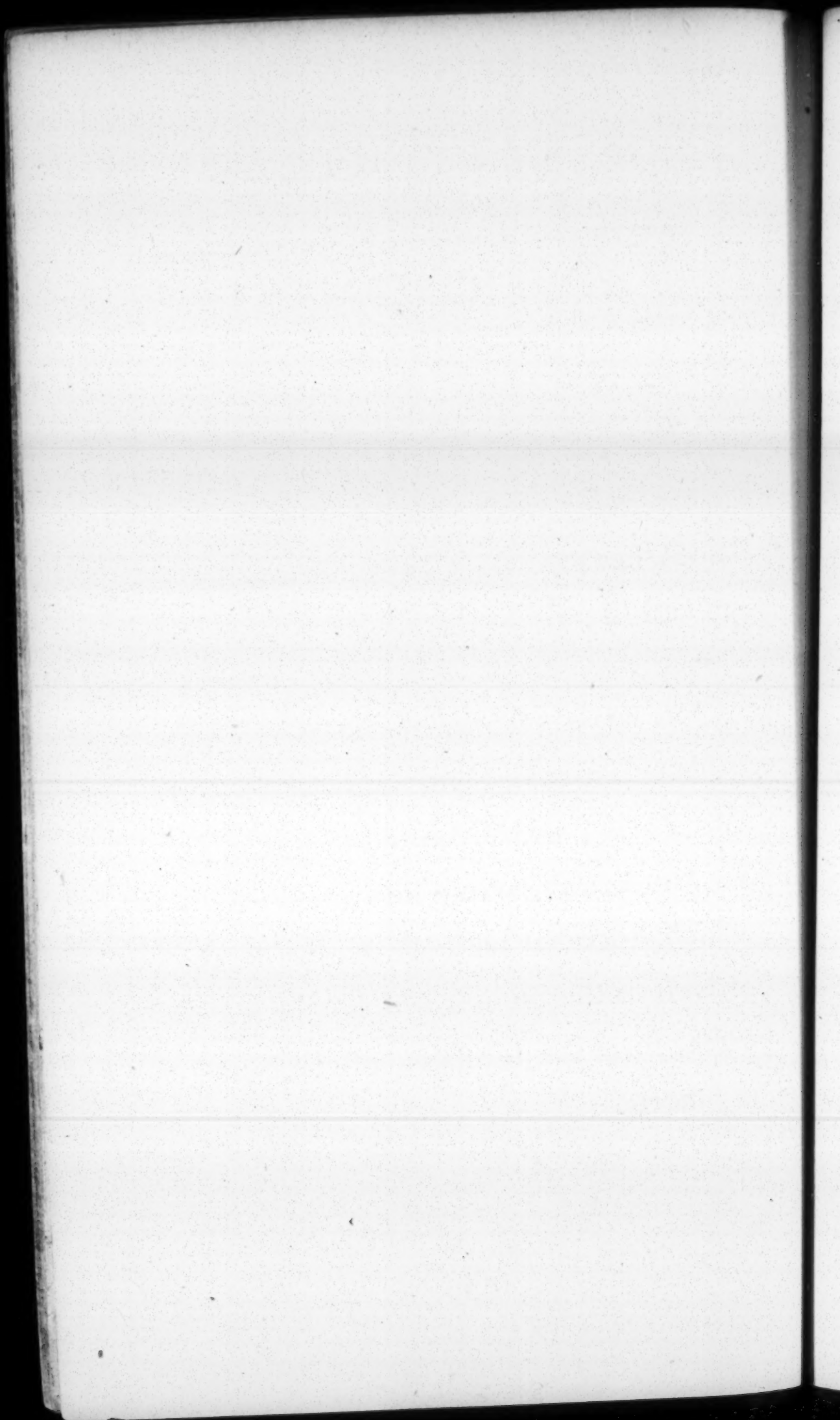
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ADVERTISEMENT.

AS the following Letters have done more good to the World, than PAINE'S Book has ever done harm, it was determined to publish them.

Mr. KING's sentiments at the EGHAM Association having got into the Herald, Mr. PAINE, who is an old acquaintance of Mr. KING's, wrote him a letter on it, which, together with Mr. KING's Reply, as well as the Speech which gave rise to them, form the substance of the following sheets.



Mr. KING's SPEECH,

AS PUBLISHED IN THE MORNING HERALD OF

DECEMBER 12, 1792.

WHEN desperate and dangerous factions threaten to disturb the country, it behoves every good citizen to avow his principles, and manifest his conduct, to prevent men grown indigent from idleness, or ruined by extravagance, from becoming so numerous and powerful as to do the Government an injury. A Constitution that has ever been held the boast and envy of the world, must not be in an instant forsaken for the new fantastic doctrine of a few designing men, who under the guise of patriotism veil their ambition. The English who have hitherto set examples to all Europe, must not at last become the miserable apes of Frenchmen---if a change had been necessary, we should not have required a hint from France; but if the French have overturned a bad Government, is that a reason why we should overturn a good one?

Instead of establishing a limited Monarchical Government, they have formed an Utopian one, a wild Republic, to bring men into notice and affluence, who had neither genius or merit to entitle

them to either; but a short time will shew that those men who have butchered half the Citizens, to pull down a tyrant, will, Hydra-like, in thousands, set up for themselves as soon as they are rid of foreign enemies.

We must not confound distinctions---Suppose they had really resisted a bad King, shall we therefore forsake a good one? Shall he, who never injured the lowest of his subjects be deserted by them? If a bad King deserves the hatred of the people, a good one deserves their attachment, and they should sacrifice their lives in his defence.

We have seen how Republics have turned out in the States of Genoa and Venice; and we foresee that the insidious Republic of France will end in a frightful Aristocracy.

Some reform is certainly wanted; but let it be sought for constitutionally---let it go to the KING through the Representatives of the People, when was he ever yet known to refuse redress of grievances? But shall we be passive when we see men begin what they call a Reform, by deluging their country in blood? Is it a necessary prelude, and earnest of reformation to plunder houses, and murder inhabitants? There is no Citizen, however low his station, but ought to guard the stake he has in the community, and join in repelling a banditti,

ditti, who, in pretending reformation, intend only a pillage; who having ruined themselves by bad courses, hope now to recover by a scramble.

The pages of these annals shall not be disgraced by English disloyalty---let the perfidious French continue their nation's reproach---perfidious ever, hypocrites under a Monarchy, murderers, and still hypocrites in a Democracy---but we, firm in our principles, and unshaken in our allegiance, will to our last breath, defend our King and Constitution, and baffle the machinations of our faithless enemies.

JOHN KING.

Egham Lodge,
December 12, 1792.

LETTER

FROM

Mr. THOMAS PAINE,
AUTHOR OF THE "RIGHTS OF MAN,"

TO

Mr. KING,
NEW BURLINGTON STREET,

ON HIS SENTIMENTS AT THE EGHAM MEETING,
PUBLISHED IN THE MORNING HERALD,
DECEMBER 12, 1792.

DEAR KING,

I DON'T know any thing these many years, that surprised, and hurt me more, than the sentiments you published in the *Courtly HERALD*, the 12th December, signed JOHN KING, *Egham Lodge*. You have gone back from all you ever said.

When I first knew you in Ailiffe-street, an obscure part of the City, a child, without fortune or friends, I noticed you; because I thought I saw in you, young as you was, a bluntness of temper, a boldness of opinion, and an originality of thought, that portended some future good.

I was

I was pleased to discuss, with you, under our friend *Oliver's lime-tree*, those political notions, which I have since given the world in my "Rights of Man."

You used to complain of abuses, as well as me, and wrote your opinions on them in free terms.---What then means this sudden attachment to *Kings*? this fondness of the English Government, and hatred of the French?---If you mean to curry favour, by aiding your Government, you are mistaken; they never recompence those who serve it; they buy off those who can annoy it, and let the good that is rendered it, be its own reward. Believe me, KING, more is to be obtained by cherishing the rising spirit of the People, than by subduing it. Follow my fortunes, and I will be answerable, that you shall make your own.

THO. PAINE.

Paris,
January 3, 1793.

TO

Mr. THOMAS PAINE,

IN ANSWER TO HIS LETTER OF THE THIRD OF
JANUARY, FROM PARIS.

DEAR SIR,

IT is true, I was a friend of the French, and would have added my contribution to assist them: they effected a glorious Revolution, and every friend to Liberty was a friend to their cause---But if, from a people struggling under oppression, they become oppressors themselves---if, from a nation seeking its own happiness, they become the disturbers of the happiness of others, and from a humiliating tone of deprecation, assume the voice of dictators, I certainly renounce the prejudice I had too hastily adopted. If, when the people who waded through a sea of blood to gain freedom, deny it to every one else, and begin a second carnage on those who differ with them in opinion;---when a ruthless mob is let loose to vent its mighty rage upon a feeble, unhappy woman, I see then, that the overthrow of one tyranny has given birth to a million of others. I ascribed the former perfidy of the French to the nature of their Government, and expected to see a new character arise from the Revolution; but neither the destruction of the Bastile, the joy over Austrian

Austrian defeats, the transitions of hope and despondency, nor their various vicissitudes of fortune, have been able to effect any essential change in their temper,---faithless in every station, they continue so till death.

Under the specious pretext of giving freedom to nations, they over-run the earth for conquest and aggrandizement.---If a mob do a sudden, desperate act, I may forgive the impulse; but when the glorious conquerors of the Basile are transformed into a deliberate body of bravos, and after sitting in mock trial on the old and defenceless, convert their prisons into shambles---Am I to continue the partisan of such men? In the commencement of the Revolution, they told me, they had no friends but us. "The English," said they, "free themselves, wish to see other nations so: while they remain neuter, we defy the rest of the world." How has our neutrality been rewarded? First, they abused the *Electeur of Hanover*; but at last, to make the matter unequivocal, they insult the *King of England*, in terms, if possible, more gross than your own!

The English, Mr. PAINE, are a spirited, and grateful people; they know how to punish a bad King, but they will not suffer one they love to be thus outraged; and they have reason to suspect the friendship of a people, who, after ages of enmity, have

have yet given no proof that their sentiments were altered. Some decisive, real instance of their attachment, should have been discovered, before they could expect that we should trust them; but hitherto one species of treachery has only been followed by another: formerly they disturbed us with their blind love of Kings; and now they persecute us with their groundless hatred of them.

Mr. PAINÉ---such men as *Frost*, *Barlow*, and others, your associates, shew the forlornness of your cause. Our respectable citizens do not go to you, they remain at home, attached to their country---the whole nation, as one man, is roused against you, and with an unanimous spirit of association, shew you, that neither the specious written Rights of Man, nor the tinselled orations of frothy Frenchmen, have been able to warp their judgments, or play upon their passions: they may mislead a few untaught villagers, but the sensible part of the nation detect the imposition, and disdain the allurements. We want no *new Revolution*;---we obtained one under Charles the First: a Revolution which was necessary with you, would, with us undo the labours, and fair fruits of a century:---so superior to all others is our present form of Government, that if it were different from what it is, we should be driven to seek *another Revolution* to bring it to this!

And

And what examples of steadiness, and moderation have you given that are worthy imitation ? A hundred forms of Government have been proposed, and rejected :---laws, and abrogation of laws, Monarchy and Republicanism, have alternately succeeded, in the small space of three years ! One day the wavering French rend the air with *Vive le Roi !* and the next, the air is again rent, with execrations on him ! In misfortune we see you desponding, and in success, carrying horror, and desolation over all the Continent. If you recollect the English, they neither despair in adversity, nor are they insolent in prosperity ;---they solicit no aid when they are in war, nor do they injure their friends when they triumph. They receive with scorn your proposal of a new Government ; they take no lessons from a people they despise. Their own feelings are the stimulus to their actions, and rouse them without a foreign impulse : they would reject your impertinent interposition from pride, if not from principle,---You, who pretend to the humility of a state of Nature, should offer *England* to be the Metropolis of the European World, instead of arrogantly proposing that all Europe shall be a Republic, and *France* its haughty Metropolis.---The people have found out that your plan is a deceit, and does them no good---you, indeed, are benefited by it, for it raises you to affluence, but they continue as they were ! for, Suppose your equalization established, and Kings and Lords annihilated,

nihilated, property would still remain in the same hands, and the poor continue as they were. Under every form of Government, there must always be labourers for the ground, workmen for the manufacturer, and servants for domestic concerns; your Revolution leaves these as they were; it raises you to a Member of the National Convention, but they continue in their former stations. Men cannot be all equally good and equally wise; the bad, therefore, must be restrained, and the ignorant guided: there ends then your fancied state of Equality.---Governors there must always be, and Governors must always be superior to the governed. In armies it is the same; there must be a General, for Equality would be Anarchy.

You say, all Government is an artifice: is not then your's an artifice, and a more hideous one than any other, where *Marat*, *Carra*, and other stabbers are the Kings of it?---Industrious men will always be richer than idlers; and the instant this is prevented, all laudable incitement is at an end, and the country is impoverished. Industry will thrive in England, because its fruits are safe under a Government, where no power can wrest them from the possessors. Your Equalization speaks to idle men, spendthrifts and robbers; they form hopes from confusion, which they cannot have in any other state; but you have rung the alarm-bell to the sober part of the people, by the retinue that follows
your

your Equality; for they see you only backed in it by the felons, mendicants, pick-pockets, and vagrants of the kingdom.

The English, who are a contemplative people, have read of the Agrarian Law; they have seen *Greece* and *Rome* produce their former PAINES; they too sung as you have done, and always had a rabble at their heels; the *Rights of Man* was the common watch-word to tumult; but they were always detected in schemes of ambition and self-interest, and when the popular delusion was over, these Men of the People were made to finish their career from the Tarpeian rock.

I evinced in Ireland, by my *Tiberius Gracchus*, that I was proof against temptation; it did not impede the completion of those public letters. I find my happiness in the prosperity of my Country, and am sufficiently rewarded in the general welfare---I am not altered;---when it is the proper season, I shall again exclaim against the twenty millions of annual taxes, against pensions, sinecure places, and unequal representation; but, instead of exclaiming against the King as you have done, I look to him to assist in the Reformation; for, born and established as he is in the Country, his interest is inseparable from that of the People, and he finds his Individual Advantage in the General Good.

Let

Let us, in England, PAINE, enjoy our liberty; while your's, amidst your boasted Republicanism is a Problem:---Let us utter our sentiments as we please; while you poignard every one who differs with you in opinion. Let us continue our trials by Jury, while your's are conducted by the Mob; and let us continue to defend our Country, while you are desolating France.

The Butchers of the National Convention think there is no safety but in the murder of their KING, though they mocked him with a trial where they could not convict him; but you,---PAINE, are too humane and just to join in such a barbarous notion, and will, if you can, hinder the French from a crime---that must excite the horror of all mankind!

Your's,

JOHN KING.

*New Burlington-Street,
January 11, 1793.*



